

Original: English

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE COMCEC**

**(Istanbul, 5-8 October 2010)**

The Twenty-Sixth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey, from 5 to 8 October 2010;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conference, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the COMCEC, in particular thereof, the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and the COMCEC Economic Summit in 2009,

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005,

Having regard to the objectives of the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States,

Considering the progress reports, working papers and studies submitted by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Organization of Islamic Ship-Owners Association (OISA) on the agenda items,

Expressing appreciation for the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office and OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely, SESRIC, IUT, ICDT, IDB, ICCI and OISA.

## **I. World Economic Developments with Special Emphasis on OIC Member States**

**Takes note** of the Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries 2010 by SESRIC, and **urges** OIC Member States to follow-up the recommendations deemed appropriate in the report.

**Entrusts** the SESRIC to continue to monitor world economic developments and their implications on the Member States and to report thereon to the annual sessions of the COMCEC with a set of policy recommendations.

**Expressing** its deep sympathy felt over the flood disaster to the people and the Government of Pakistan **calls upon** the Member States to increase their support to Pakistan in overcoming the challenges faced following the flood and **requests** the IDB and other relevant OIC institutions to review their current mechanisms in order to assist the Member States facing emergency situations due to natural disasters.

## **II. Review of the Implementation of the TYPOA and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the OIC Member States**

### **i) Mid-Term Review of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action**

**Takes note** of the recommendations of the preparatory meeting on the mid-term review of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action held in İstanbul on 28-30 July 2010.

**Requests** the IDB to cooperate with the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office in defining a mechanism for its financial support and technical assistance to COMCEC programs and projects.

**ii) Evaluation of the Plan of Action**

**Takes note** of the evaluation report on the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States of the OIC, jointly prepared by the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office.

**Invites** the COMCEC Coordination Office, in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat to further study on the Plan of Action so as to make it a more comprehensive and up-to-date framework of cooperation with an effective implementation mechanism.

**iii) Cooperation in the area of Tourism**

**Invites** all Member States to take appropriate measures to effectively implement the OIC Framework Document on Tourism.

**Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers on 28 November – 1 December 2010 and **calls on** Member States and concerned OIC institutions to participate in this Session at the highest level.

**Also welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize a workshop on 9-12 December 2010 in İzmir for the private sector representatives of the OIC Member States in the area of tourism.

**iv) Cooperation in the area of Transportation**

**Emphasizes** the importance of the revitalization of the cooperation in the area of transportation and **welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to organize an expert group meeting in the area of transportation in 2011.

**v) Review of the Activities of the Statistical Working Group**

**Calls upon** the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) and other relevant institutions in the Member States to actively cooperate with the OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG) with regard to data collection and capacity building.

**Welcomes** the offer of the IDB to host the Third Meeting of the OIC-SWG in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; and the offer of SESRIC to organize, in collaboration with the General Department of Statistics of Jordan, the Experts Group Meeting to identify new statistical indicators such as early warning systems, climate change and Islamic statistics.

**Also welcomes** the offer of SESRIC and IDB to organize the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-SC) in April 2011, in Istanbul, and **calls on** the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of the OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions to actively participate in the Session.

**Calls on** the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) to provide SESRIC news related to their institutions to be published in the semi-annual Newsletter of OIC-SWG.

**Requests** SESRIC to report on the activities of the OIC-SWG to the annual Sessions of the COMCEC and Follow-up Committee Meetings.

#### **vi) Report of the Sessional Committee**

**Adopts** the report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Sessional Committee and **welcomes** the positive developments regarding the implementation of the projects that are in the agenda of the Sessional Committee and **reiterates** its request from the concerned Member States to actively participate in the implementation process of the COMCEC projects.

### **III. Intra-OIC Trade**

#### **i) TPS-OIC**

**Welcomes** the entry into force of the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) on 5 February 2010 and **calls upon** the Member States which have ratified PRETAS to notify the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat, at the earliest convenience, their specific annual installments of reduction along with the list of products and the MFN applied rate applicable on 1 October 2003, which is the base rate of the tariffs to be used for reduction.

**Welcomes** the recent ratifications of the Rules of Origin by Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Syria, thus bringing the total number of ratifications to nine Member States, and **calls upon** the Member States which have ratified the Rules of Origin to complete the necessary internal legislative and administrative measures, such as printing the TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin and providing specimen impressions of stamps to the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat in order to make the TPS-OIC operational.

**Urges** the Member States to sign and ratify the TPS-OIC Agreements, in particular the Rules of Origin, in order to make the TPS-OIC operational.

#### **ii) Road Map for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade**

**Requests** the OIC Institutions to carry out the activities in the Executive Program and the IDB Group to provide necessary financial assistance for the achievement of the activities and projects included in the Executive Program.

**Urges** the Member States to give the required support to the OIC Institutions for the implementation of the Executive Program.

#### **iii) WTO Related Technical Assistance**

**Underlines** the importance of an early conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) with the objective of fully realizing its developmental components.

**Calls on** IDB Group, ICDDT and other related OIC institutions to continue extending their technical assistance to the Member States on issues related to the WTO.

**Welcomes** the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize a workshop on WTO related impacts on the OIC Member States in 2011 and **requests** all OIC Member States to participate actively.

#### **iv) Trade Financing Activities**

**Urges** Member States to increase their support, coordination and cooperation with the IDB Group (ITFC and ICIEC) to ensure that greater achievements in these areas materialize.

**Requests** the ITFC to review mark-up rates and terms of its trade financing programs in order to render them competitive with the other international or national financial resources.

**Also requests** the ITFC to develop special programs designed to meet the needs of the private sector during the crisis and to respond to the demands of its customers in a timely manner.

#### **IV. Private Sector Cooperation**

##### **i) Islamic Trade Fairs**

**Urges** ICDT to deepen and expand the content of its trade fairs and exhibitions by collaborating with trade promoting organs in the OIC Member States.

**Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Tunisia to host the First OIC Health Expo in Tunis on 24-27 February 2011 and **urges** the OIC Member States and private sector representatives to actively participate in this Fair.

**Urges** the Member States to actively participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> Trade Fair of OIC Member States to be held in Sharjah, State of United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 24 to 29 April 2011.

**Urges** the Member States to actively participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism Fair of OIC Member States to be held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt in 2011.

**Welcomes** the offers of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tourism Fairs in 2013 and 2015 respectively and requests ICDT to follow up on this matter.

**Also welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Iraq to organize the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Trade Fair of OIC Member Countries in 2017.

**Requests** the ICDT to prepare progress reports regularly on the trade fairs as well as the tourism fairs of OIC Member States and the other specialized exhibitions and submit them to the COMCEC Sessions and related OIC fora.

## **ii) Private Sector Meetings**

**Takes note** of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Business Forum (IBF) organized by the Independent Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD) on 6 October 2010.

**Takes note** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Business Forum/13<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting on the sidelines of the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in May 2010 in Tajikistan and **calls upon** the Member States, OIC and the IDB to give further consideration for economic cooperation between Central Asian Republics and the other Member States.

**Welcomes** the offer of the Chamber of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the First Conference on Health Tourism of OIC Member States on 2-4 November 2010.

**Takes note** that the 14<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting will be held in Sharjah along with the 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fair from 22 to 24 April 2011 and the 6<sup>th</sup> Businesswomen Forum will be held in Sudan in February 2011 and **calls upon** all Member States to encourage their private sector to attend these meetings and expand their network.

**Welcomes** the initiatives of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on concentrating its activities on the private sector of the African region and in the area of economic empowerment of businesswomen.

**Reiterates** its call on the Member States to facilitate issuance of visa for business community.

**Requests** the ICCI to hold sector-specific Private Sector Meetings and submit a report thereon to the COMCEC Sessions.

**V. Poverty Alleviation and Economic / Technical Assistance to OIC Countries**

**i) ISFD and SPDA**

**Calls upon** the Member States to contribute more financial resources to ISFD to reach its capital amount of USD 10 billion.

**Urges** pledging Member States to fulfill their commitments to the ISFD.

**Appeals** to the Member States which have not done so to announce their contributions at their earliest convenience and **urges** the Member States which have announced their contributions inconsistent with their economic potential and capacity to pledge more contributions.

**Calls upon** all Member States, Donor Countries and International Development Agencies to mobilize resources to cover the estimated USD 8 billion gap in the SPDA between contributions by the IDB Group and the total amount of USD 12 billion proposed for the SPDA.

**Urges** the IDB to facilitate the processes of allocating resources of the ISFD.

**Requests** the IDB to submit report on the implementation status of the ISFD and SPDA regularly to the COMCEC Sessions.

**ii) OIC Cotton Program**

**Endorses** the decisions of the 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Committee Meeting for the implementation of the OIC Cotton Plan of Action held in Casablanca, Morocco on 27-28 September 2010.

**Urges** the owner countries of the project proposals to submit an official request of finance to the IDB Group through their competent authorities.



**Appeals** to the IDB Group and to other concerned financial institutions to continue their support to the programme.

**Invites** the OIC General Secretariat, ICDT and the IDB to take new initiatives with a view of mobilizing more funds from international financial institutions in addition to IDB Group financing.

**Adopts** the proposal of the 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee on Cotton to extend the period of the OIC Five Year Cotton Plan (2007-2011) for further five years (2011-2016).

**Invites** the General Secretariat of the OIC, the Chairman of the Steering Committee, IDB Group and ICDT to organize meetings for evaluation of the programme as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> Project Committee and the 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meetings in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco in 2011 and report to the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

### **iii) Cooperation among Development Cooperation Institutions of the Member States**

**Welcomes** the establishment of the OIC Development Cooperation Forum (OIC-DCF) by the Second Meeting of the Development Cooperation Institutions (DCIs) of the Member States held in Abu Dhabi on 3-4 May 2010.

**Requests** DCI's of the Member States to expand their cooperation through exchanging their experiences and joint programs in the Member States, particularly in the least developed ones.

### **iv) OIC-VET Program**

**Underlines** the critical role of the National Focal Points (NFPs) for the successful implementation of the OIC-VET Programme, and **calls upon** the NFPs to pool and coordinate their efforts to the planned and ongoing pilot projects under the Programme.

**Endorses** the concept paper and the work plan on "OIC-VET Sub-programme on Trade, Economy and Finance (OICVET-TEF)" which was prepared by the Task Force composed of the representatives of the IDB,

SESRIC and COMCEC Coordination Office, and **requests** the task force to finalize its work for the initiation of the sub-programme in early 2011.

**Takes note** of the increasing number of the Member States which have already designated their NFPs for the OIC-VET, and **calls upon** the other Member States to do so.

**Welcomes** the OIC International Students Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP), which has been recently developed under the International Business Forum (IBF) in the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, and **calls upon** Member States to actively participate in the OIC-ISIP for promoting competitiveness of OIC economies through increasing the knowledge and skills of university students about to enter into the labour market.

**Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee of the OIC-VET in 2011.

#### **v) Food Security Program**

**Takes note with appreciation** the Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Task Force on Food Security concluded on 4 October 2010.

**Calls on** donors within the OIC Community as well as volunteering Member States to support the implementation of high priority national programs for food security and South South Cooperation, as well as the work of the Task Force.

**Thanks** the Government of Turkey for organizing the High Level Officials Meeting on food security on 28-29 September 2010 in İzmir and **endorses** the recommendations contained in the Report of the Meeting.

**Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Sudan to host the 5<sup>th</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in Khartoum, on 26-28 October 2010 and **requests** the Member States to actively participate in this Conference.

**Takes note** of the workshop to be organized by ICCI and IDB in collaboration with the Government of Uganda and the Uganda Chamber of Commerce, on food security along with the Forum on Agro-Food Industries in OIC Member Countries in Kampala, Uganda in December 2010.

## **VI. Financial Cooperation among the OIC Member States**

### **i) Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges**

**Takes note** of the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Stock Exchanges Forum Meeting held on 2-3 October 2010 in İstanbul.

**Welcomes** the progress achieved in the cooperation among Stock Exchanges of OIC Member States and **requests** the Stock Exchanges to coordinate their cooperation activities.

**Recalling** the decision of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC to develop a cooperation mechanism for Capital Markets' Regulatory Bodies of the Member States, **welcomes** the offer of Turkey to organize a meeting in 2011 with the participation of Capital Markets Regulatory Bodies of the Member States.

### **ii) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities**

**Takes note** of the recommendations of the 10<sup>th</sup> Governors of Central Banks Meeting held on 26-27 September 2010 in İstanbul and **requests** the Central Banks to coordinate their cooperation activities.

## **VII. Exchange of Views**

### **i) Agriculture and Rural Development**

**Takes note** of the report of the Workshop on Agriculture and Rural Development successfully organized by IDB and SESRIC on 16-18 September 2010 in Antalya, and **calls upon** the Member States in cooperation with the concerned partners to benefit from its recommendations in their efforts for agriculture and rural development.

**Draws attention** to the successful experiences that were specified at the Workshop on Agriculture and Rural Development and **calls upon** Member States, in collaboration with regional as well as international partners, to study the feasibility of replication in their countries. It **also calls upon** the Member States to study the feasibility of the projects through the establishment of partnerships.

**ii) Theme of the next Exchange of Views Session**

**Decides on** “The Impact of Transportation Networks on Trade and Tourism” as the theme for the Exchange of Views at the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and **requests** the SESRIC, in association with the IDB, the OIC General Secretariat, relevant OIC institutions and other related international organizations to organize a workshop on this topic prior to the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC and to submit its report to the said COMCEC Session.

**VIII. Development of the OIC Halal Food Standards and Procedures**

**Takes note** of the Report of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standardization Expert Group (SEG), para 65 of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, resolution No: 5/37-E/4-5 of 37<sup>th</sup> CFM/OIC.

**Takes note** as non-binding reference documents the “OIC General Guidelines on Halal Food”; "Guidelines for Bodies Providing Halal Certification"; and "Guidelines for the Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Halal Certification Bodies".

Any further discussion on this topic will be based on these documents.

**IX. E-government Applications and Their Economic Impact on the OIC Member States**

**Takes note** of the report presented by SESRIC on “E-Government Development and E-Participation: The Performance of the OIC Member Countries” and the recommendations made by the Member States at the "International Conference on e-Government: Sharing Experiences" (eGOVsharE2009).

**Requests** SESRIC to develop and manage an e-Government Information Sharing Platform within the framework to be decided by the E-Government Working Group (eGovWG).

#### **X. Date of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC**

**Decides** that the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee will be held on 10-12 May 2011 and the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC will be held in Istanbul on 17-20 October 2011.

#### **Any Other Business**

**Welcomes** the entry into force of the Statute of the Standard and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in May 2010 and the establishment of SMIIC on 2 August 2010 and **requests** the Member States which have not signed and ratified the Statute of SMIIC to do so.

##### **i) Renewal of the Bureau Members**

**Agrees on** the new composition of the General Assembly Bureau in accordance with the Rule-2 of the COMCEC Rules of Procedures:

1-	Republic of Turkey	:	Chairman (Permanent)
2-	State of Palestine	:	Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
3-	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	:	Vice-Chairman (Permanent)
4-	Senegal	:	Chairman of the Current Summit
5-	State of Qatar	:	Vice-Chairman (Representing the Arab Region)
6-	Republic of Kazakhstan	:	Vice-Chairman (Representing the Asian Region)
7-	Republic of Mali	:	Vice-Chairman (Representing the African Region)
8-	Islamic Republic of Pakistan	:	Rapporteur

##### **ii) Integration of Central Asia with Other Member States and Rest of the World**

**Welcomes** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat and its relevant institutions to prepare OIC Special Programme for Central Asia and **calls upon**

the Member States from this region to actively cooperate with the OIC General Secretariat in devising this programme.

**iii) Intra-OIC Trade Dispute Resolution Mechanism**

**Requests** the IDB Group to prepare a study on the relevance of establishing a mechanism to settle intra-OIC trade and investment disputes considering the existing mechanisms and submit the study to the next session of the COMCEC.

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